



NEWS RELEASE

**FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE
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Statement by FMCS Director George H. Cohen On Rhode Island Teachers Agreement

WASHINGTON, DC– FMCS Director George Cohen today commended Deborah Gist, Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Dr. Frances Gallo, Superintendent of the Central Falls School District, and Marcia Reback, President of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, for having reached a key new comprehensive agreement focused directly on meeting the educational needs of the students in the Central Falls School District.

Two months ago, the parties jointly requested the assistance of the FMCS to serve as a facilitator in their ongoing discussions. The Agency appointed FMCS Director of Field Operations Jack Buettner as Special Representative to serve in conjunction with retired Federal District Court Judge Ernest Torres. “Thanks to the extraordinary dedication, talent and ingenuity of the parties and the major contributions of the facilitators, a successful outcome was realized,” Director Cohen commented. “This was a real life example of how differences between parties can be resolved through collective bargaining in a manner that significantly advances the quality of public education,” he said.

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, created in 1947, is an independent U.S. government agency whose mission is to preserve and promote labor-management peace and cooperation. Headquartered in Washington, DC, with 10 district offices and more than 67 field offices, the agency provides mediation and conflict resolution services to industry, government agencies and communities.